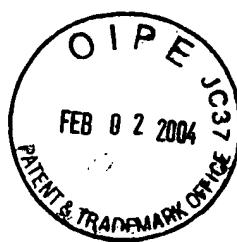


IPLM Group, P.A.  
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PATENT

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Attorney Docket No.	Serial No.
151P11201US01	10/699,611

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

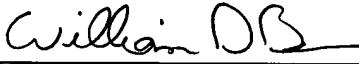
In re the Application of:	Marc J. Stepkowski et al.		
Serial No.:	10/699,611	Examiner:	
Confirmation No.:		Art Unit:	
Filed:	October 31, 2003		
For:	STYLET, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INSERTING A CATHETER INTO THE DURA OF A PATIENT BY STRETCHING THE CATHETER		

We are transmitting the following documents:

Return Postcard  
 Transmittal Letter  
 Information Disclosure Statement  
 Form 1449, with copies attached of twenty-seven (27) documents referenced thereon

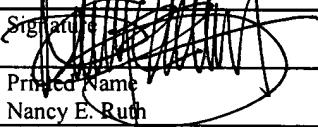
Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

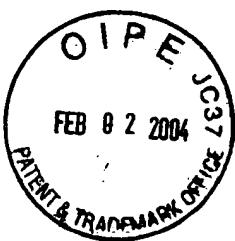
Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 28,052	Direct Dial 612-331-7405	
Date: January 29, 2004	William D. Bauer	
United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer No. 23322		

**Certificate of Mailing**

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States mail, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date.

	Signature
Date of Mailing January 29, 2004	Printed Name Nancy E. Ruth



PATENT

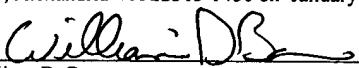
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Marc J. Stepkowski et al. Examiner: Unknown  
Serial No.: 10/699,611 Art Unit:  
Filed: October 31, 2003 Confirmation No.:  
Docket No.: 151P11201US01  
For: STYLET, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INSERTING A  
CATHETER INTO THE DURA OF A PATIENT BY STRETCHING  
THE CATHETER

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 on January 29, 2004.

  
William D. Bauer

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500549.

Respectfully submitted,

MARC J. STEPKOWSKI ET AL.

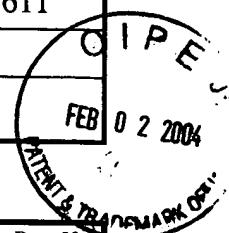
Date: January 29, 2004

By: William D. Bauer

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WDB:nr

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	Atty. Docket No.: 151P11201US01	Serial No.: 10/699,611
	Applicant(s): Marc J. Stepkowski et al.	Confirmation No.: C
	Filing Date: October 31, 2003	Group:

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
Initial							Yes      No

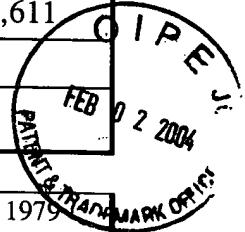
**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Authors, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)**

Examiner Initial		Document Description
		Medline plus® Health Information, Medical Encyclopedia: "CSF leak" Definition 2002 pp.1-2 <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001068.htm">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001068.htm</a>
		YourSurgery.Com®, "Shunt for Hydrocephalus, Complications" 2000 p.7
		Gruen M.D., John Peter, Neurosurgery Infonet, "Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak" 2000 pp.1-2 <a href="http://www.uscneurosurgery.com/glossary/c/csf%20leak.htm">http://www.uscneurosurgery.com/glossary/c/csf%20leak.htm</a> .
		Capitol Anesthesiology Association, Services, Complications/Risks "Spinal Headache" p.1 <a href="http://www.capanes.com/services_cr.html">http://www.capanes.com/services_cr.html</a>
		Gruen M.D., John Peter, Neurosurgery Infonet, Neurosurgical Procedures, Risks and Complications "Acoustic neuroma resection" pp. 1-9 <a href="http://www.uscneurosurgery.com/patient%20education/risks%20complications/procedure/risks%20complications%20acoustic%20removal.htm">http://www.uscneurosurgery.com/patient%20education/risks%20complications/procedure/risks%20complications%20acoustic%20removal.htm</a>
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<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	Atty. Docket No.: 151P11201US01	Serial No.: 10/699,611
	Applicant(s): Marc J. Stepkowski et al.	Confirmation No.:
	Filing Date: October 31, 2003	Group:

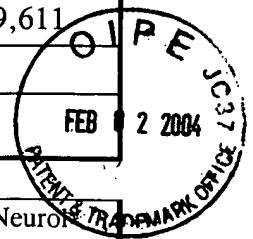


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<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
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\*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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	Applicant(s): Marc J. Stepkowski et al.	Confirmation No.:
	Filing Date: October 31, 2003	Group:



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<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>
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